December 24, 1999 from Kathmandu. The committee submitted its report on January 24, 2000. The Government of India are yet to receive the committee's report since it has not been made public so far. The Government are not aware whether any other country, including Pakistan, have asked Nepal to make available a copy of the report.

Newsitem on Bhartiya Uchchayog Karmi Kee Buri Tarah Pitai

†1574. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in Rashtriya Sahara on 17th January, 2000 under the caption "Bhartiya Uchchayog Karmi Kee Buri Tarah Pitai"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government strongly condemned this incident. A strong protest was lodged with Pakistan about the abhorrent behaviour of the Pakistan authorities with Shri P. Moses, a staff member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Government also rejected the false and baseless allegations made by the Government of Pakistan against Shri Moses and reminded it that such action was grossly violative of Pakistan's internatioal and bilateral obligations.

Connecting Madhya Pradesh with an International Gateway Hub

†1575. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to promote internet facilities for giving impetus to information technology;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord the approval on the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for connecting the Bhopal and Indore cities of the State with an international gateway hub; and

(c) if so, by when this approval will be granted to the State?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government. However, VSNL has recently commissioned an earth station at Indore for providing Internet connectivity. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation to provide High Speed Data Communication facility at Indore that will provide nodes at Gwalior and Bhopal.

Setting Up of Electronic Software Parks

†1576. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes pertaining to setting up of electronic software parks in various States is being organised by Government;

(b) if so, the names of the places alongwith the names of the States for which assistance has been provided by Government.

(c) whether any scheme related to electronic park for Madhya Pradesh has been sanctioned by Government; and

(d) whether Government will approve any specific scheme for sanction of electronic park, in view of the backwardness of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of Software Technology Park in different States.

(b) Ministry of Information Technology (erstwhile Department of Electronics) has provided financial support to the following Software Technology Parks:

	State	Centres
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Mysore, Manipal
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vizag
3.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.